

## Grade Seven

*(Components 1 and 2 should not exceed 18 minutes.)*

1. Introduce and perform from memory:
  - a song written before 1900;
  - a song written between 1900 and 1940.40 marks
2. Introduce and perform from memory:
  - a song written between 1940 and 1970;
  - a song written in or after 1970.40 marks

*NB. ONE of the songs in Components 1 or 2 above should be preceded or followed by a section of spoken libretto, in character (the same character as the song), of approx. ½ - 1 minute's duration.*

3. Discuss with the examiner:
  - how the programme was put together;
  - the subject matter of the songs;
  - the characterisation of the songs;
  - the contrasting styles and moods of the songs;
  - the narrative and dramatic context of the songs;
  - the genre to which each song belongs;
  - the composer and librettist of the songs (some basic biographical knowledge is required);
  - the vocal and dramatic skills and techniques employed in order to perform the songs;
  - how the songs and spoken libretto were learnt and prepared for performance, including any problems and how these were overcome;
  - a critical evaluation of the candidate's performance, including aspects of the performance which went well, and aspects which could have been improved.20 marks

## Grade Eight

*(Component 1 should not exceed 20 minutes.)*

1. Present a programme of FOUR contrasted songs. These should be drawn from a variety of periods and genres, and should enable the candidate to exhibit a wide range of performance styles and characterisations, to a high standard. Each song should be preceded by a spoken introduction, and at least ONE song must be linked to a section of spoken libretto, in character, of approx. ½ - 1 minute's duration, either immediately before and/or following the song. 60 marks
2. Candidates will be asked to read aloud at sight a piece of libretto. The libretto will contain two speaking parts, of which one will be taken by the examiner, the other by the candidate. The examiner will instruct the candidate which rôle to read. Candidates are not expected to perform from memory, and may read from the text while they perform. Preparation time of approximately 1 minute will be given, during which time the candidate may 'try out' short sections of the text if they wish. Specimen tests are available; see Section 7.1. 20 marks
3. Discuss with the examiner any or all (at the examiner's discretion) of the following:
  - how the programme was put together;
  - the subject matter of the songs;
  - the characterisation of the songs;
  - the contrasting styles and moods of the songs;
  - the narrative and dramatic context of the songs;
  - the genre to which each song belongs;
  - the composer and librettist of the songs (some basic biographical knowledge is required);
  - the vocal and dramatic skills and techniques employed in order to perform the songs;
  - how the songs and spoken libretto were learnt and prepared for performance, including any problems and how these were overcome;
  - a critical evaluation of the candidate's performance, including aspects of the performance which went well, and aspects which could have been improved;
  - the candidate's response to the passage in Component 2 above;
  - wider background knowledge of music theatre, particularly in relation to the programme performed;
  - a thorough understanding of relevant vocal and dramatic techniques, stagecraft, and performance skills.20 marks